

Live * Learn * Explore



Indy Parks and Recreation

Annual Report 2005





Mayor

Bart Peterson

Director

Joseph Wynn

Board of Parks and Recreation

Joseph Wynn, Chairperson

Richard J. Cockrum

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Emily G. Nichols

William H. Stinson

City-County Council

Parks and Recreation Committee

Vernon Brown, Chairperson

Bob Cockrum

Susie Day

Ron Gibson

Monroe Gray

Dane Mahern

William Oliver

Earl Salisbury

Mission

Indy Parks and Recreation shall provide clear leadership and well-defined direction for enhancing the quality of life for Indianapolis and Marion County residents by providing park and recreation resources and services that:

Provide and/or facilitate quality recreation and leisure opportunities;

Encourage and support natural and cultural resource stewardship and environmental education;

Include safe, clean, and well-maintained park facilities for the community's fun and enjoyment;

Promote and facilitate mutually beneficial countywide partnerships.

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Cover: Garfield Park Conservatory

This Page: Garfield Park Pagoda

Greetings!

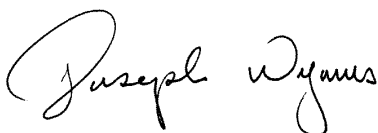
We are pleased to present the 2005 Indy Parks and Recreation Annual Report. In the past year, Indy Parks, together with the Indianapolis Parks Foundation, received more than \$1.5 million in grants to help fund unique programs and services for Indianapolis residents. Creative partnerships with schools, neighborhoods, social services, and local businesses also helped to build and expand three family centers, revitalize and beautify economically depressed areas, build a new greenway, and implement citywide health and fitness initiatives.

Community investments like these are vital to enhancing and sustaining the health, stability and quality of life of all Indianapolis residents. Indy Parks is proud to have received national recognition for its commitment to creating a world class parks system as a finalist for the National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management. The Gold Medal Award, presented by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association, honors the nation's outstanding park and recreation agencies.

We are thankful to our many public and private partners who understand the importance and the value of parkland and recreational programming. With your support, Indy Parks will continue to grow with our great city, and residents and visitors alike will continue to live, learn, and explore parks for many years to come.



Bart Peterson, Mayor
City of Indianapolis



Joseph Wynns, Director
Indy Parks and Recreation

Building a World-Class City Neighborhood by Neighborhood

-Mayor Bart Peterson

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Director Joseph Wynns and Mayor Bart Peterson with Windsor Village youth.



2005 Highlights



Finalist, National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.

Provided services and facilities to 7.9 million park visitors through various programs, parks, facilities, and greenways.

\$1.5 million collected through partnerships, sponsorships, and donations.

Received over 30 grants for a total of \$830,000.

Volunteers logged in 92,842 hours at park facilities and programs.

Completed 2005 Recreation Programming Master Plan and 2005 Facility Identification Master Plan.

1.5 million visits on the Indy Parks Web site, www.indyparks.org.

Indianapolis was named a Tree City USA for the seventh straight year.

Major Taylor Velodrome hosted the 2005 U.S. Masters Track Cycling Championships.

The AARP listed the Central Canal Tow Path in the Top 4 “Hikeable and Likable” destinations nationwide.

Eagle Creek Park was the site of the NCAA National Rowing Championships.

Canal Tow Path Greenway named “Top 10 Trails” by *Fitness Magazine* (July 2005).

Joseph Wynns was named President-Elect of American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA).

The new Bethel Park Family Center opened its doors to the public.





Department Facilities



188 Parks
23 Aquatic Facilities
9 Greenways
20 Family Centers
13 Golf Courses
4 Nature Centers
4 Disc Golf Courses
2 Ice Rinks
2 Dog Parks
Mountain Bike Trail
Conservatory
Arts Center
Velodrome
Skate Park
BMX Complex
12 Spray Grounds



Grants, Alliances, Partnerships, Sponsorships

The G.A.P.S. program fills the void between service delivery and necessary resources. By forming mutually beneficial partnerships with local organizations and businesses, Indy Parks is able to expand its reach and extend its services and diverse programs into all corners of the county.

2005 Accomplishments

Received over \$830,000 in grants for everything from senior programming to capital improvements to outreach services.

500 volunteers from One Heart, Many Hands logged in 18,720 hours in over 20 parks throughout Marion County.

Awarded a \$10,000 grant from Safeco Insurance Co. for the restoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park.

Partnered with the Indiana Marion County Public Library (IMCPL) to establish “Infoports” – mobile carts with books and magazines to encourage reading, as well as public computer stations that offer access to the internet and IMCPL’s catalog.

Sponsorships from Safeco Insurance Co., Friends of Garfield Park, C.P. Morgan, and Johnson Control Inc. contributed over \$5,350 towards the 2005 Indy Parks Partner Recognition Breakfast.

Partnered with the Indianapolis Private Industry Council (IPIC) to establish community learning labs at three family centers. IPIC provided each lab with computer equipment to assist city residents with job search and the development of job skills.

Approximately 200 volunteers from Home Depot and CitiFinancial worked to clean and restore Eagle Creek Park beach. Home Depot donated \$5,000 in materials and equipment.

Partnered with Watson-McCord Neighborhood Association, Safeco Insurance Co., and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB) to offer over \$30,000 in materials, plants, and labor to restore and beautify McCord Park.



Partnering for Success

Local governance support groups advise, promote, and encourage Indy Parks and Recreation by identifying community needs and resources related to the parks and recreation system. From the areas of preservation, future development or planning, and funding, our boards, advisory councils, and committees serve the Indianapolis community by protecting and promoting our parks as sanctuaries for cultural, educational, and recreational activities.



Bel-Aire Park Advisory Council

Broad Ripple Park Advisory Council

Christian Park Advisory Council

Eagle Creek Park Foundation

Ellenberger Park Advisory Council

Friends of Eagle Creek Park

Friends of Garfield Park

Friends of Holliday Park

Friends of Southwest Indy Parks Advisory Council

Garfield Arts Center Advisory Committee

Garfield Park Advisory Council

Greenways Foundation

Indianapolis Parks Foundation

JTV Hill Advisory Council

Krannert Advisory Council

Kuntz Advisory Team

Municipal Gardens Advisory Council

Northwestway Park Advisory Council

Raymond Park Advisory Council

Riverside Park Advisory Council

Southeastway Park Advisory Council

Thatcher Park Advisory Council

Washington Park Advisory Council

Watkins Park Advisory Council



The Golf Division provides high-quality golf opportunities for people of all ages and ability throughout the Indianapolis community. Core responsibilities include managing municipal courses and contracts, as well as overseeing planning and capital improvements at each course.

The 13 courses include:

Coffin Golf Course	Sarah Shank Golf Course
Douglass Golf Course	Smock Golf Course
Eagle Creek Golf Course	South Grove Golf Course
Pleasant Run Golf Course	Thatcher Golf Course
Riverside Golf Course	Whispering Hills Golf Course
Riverside Golf Academy	Winding River Golf Course
Sahm Golf Course	

2005 Accomplishments

The Indy Parks Junior Golf Program served 636 urban youth through its summer golf program.

A partnership with IPS that offers the golf program in physical education classes reached an additional 2,173 youth.

A new clubhouse was designed for Thatcher golf course to replace the old cart storage building. Carts will be stored under the new facility in a basement that opens onto the lower-level parking lot.

Cleared land to begin construction of the city's 14th golf facility at 25th Street and the Monon Trail to serve exclusively as a First Tee course and learning center. First Tee was created by the World Golf Foundation in 1997 to bring golf to youngsters who otherwise would not be exposed to the game and its positive values.



Community Recreation and Sports

The Community Recreation and Sports Division provides high-quality recreational services and sports programs to Marion County residents. Our unique sports facilities including indoor and outdoor aquatic centers, sports courts and fields, ice rinks, velodrome, skate park, and a BMX track, are open to the public for leagues, groups, or family fun!

Community Recreation's core areas include:

Family Centers	Neighborhood Parks
Arts Services	Aquatics
Day Camps and After-School Programs	Sports
Therapeutic and Inclusion Services	Health & Fitness

2005 Accomplishments

Partnered with Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) and the Metropolitan School District of Washington Township (MSDWT) to offer after school programming through a \$918,360 grant from 21st Century Community Learning Center.

Organized and hosted the First Annual TCU Indy Kids Triathlon with 75 youth participating.

Awarded \$40,000 from United Way of Greater Indianapolis to fund a Recreation Adventure Program (RAP) at IPS 27.

Served 30,945 youths through the free Summer Supervised Playground Program.

Increased participation to 357 adults in the senior social dances, which were developed to provide maturing adults with a fitness and social outlet.

Entertained over 2,500 people with free movies at 12 different parks in the summer.

Received a \$7,200 grant from the Summer Youth Program Fund to support Camp GATHER, which allows for children with disabilities to participate in summer day camp programs.

Received a \$30,000 grant for the rehabilitation of two basketball courts at Douglass and Pride Parks from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM).

Awarded a \$31,000 grant from the Fernando Foundation (Atlanta, GA) in sponsorship of the 2005 Power Soccer World Tournament, which hosted 150 athletes with various disabilities from 23 different countries.

Earned Honorable Mention for "Excellence in Youth Sports" Award administered by *Athletic Business Magazine*.



Park Maintenance



The Park Maintenance Division maintains Indy Parks' facilities and parks. Operating elements include beautification, forestry (including street trees), grounds, facility maintenance, land improvement, natural resources, and land stewardship.

2005 Accomplishments

Completed the first of many improvement projects for the historic Kessler Park and Boulevard System (National Register of Historic Places).

Installed 11 new landscapes at various Indy Park facilities.

Converted 13 annual flower beds to perennial beds, thus reducing maintenance requirements.

Facilitated numerous volunteer groups to aid in tree care, ground maintenance, and plantings.

Installed 4 new picnic shelters at Tolin-Akeman Park, Northwestway Park, Emhardt Park, and Coward Park.

Installed 5 new playgrounds at Emhardt Park, Barton Park, Hawthorne Park, Bel-Aire Park, and Southwestway Park.

Responded to 450 tree-related emergencies including removal of storm debris and hazardous trees.

Processed 27,000 Christmas trees into quality mulch to be used for city playgrounds and parks through the Christmas Tree Recycling program.

Oversaw planting of over 59,000 trees on city property.

Implemented YAP (Youth Arboriculture Program), an arborist vocational training program that graduated 5 students within the IPS system.

Reached 11,000 IPS elementary students with Arbor Week programs.



Environmental Education and Natural Resources

The Environmental Education and Natural Resources Division provides quality environmental education and facilities to the community while protecting and preserving the natural assets of Indianapolis parks for people and wildlife.

2005 Accomplishments

Reached over one million visitors at environmental education facilities.

Developed 144 new programs offered to the public.

Expanded adult education programs attracting over 8,000 attendees.

Responded to over 6,000 citizen calls seeking natural resources expertise.

Received \$8,500 from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to help with reforestation and prairie installation efforts at Southwestway Park and Eagle Creek Park. USFWS also contributed \$2,000 for understory plantings at Memorial Grove.

Offered Continuing Education Units to local professionals in various disciplines.

Reached a total of 70,000 youth in outreach environmental education services such as the Hub Naturalist program.

Awarded a \$10,000 IPALCO Golden Eagle Grant for prairie installation and invasive vegetation control along Fall Creek.

Installed 60,483 native plants countywide and 2,414 wetland plants at the Scott Starling Nature Sanctuary.

Planted 2,354 upland herbaceous plants countywide.

Installed approximately 55,715 native trees and shrubs as part of reforestation projects or for landscaping.

Reforested 95 acres of park property and seeded 47 acres with native species.





The Greenways Division manages and maintains the greenways system within Marion County to provide recreational and fitness opportunities; promote open space conservation; link neighborhoods together with other parks and community assets; educate the public about the importance of the natural environment; promote economic development by making Indianapolis a desirable place where new businesses can locate; and redevelop and manage the Marion County bicycle routes as part of the Indianapolis Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, which will connect the greenways and parks and recreation system to communities.

2005 Accomplishments

Millennium Trail Designation – Federal Trails Program
– Monon Rail Trail

Completed the first 1.5 miles of the 16-mile Eagle Creek Trail from 56th Street south to 46th Street.

Construction underway for the Fall Creek Trail from 56th Street to Skiles Test Park.

Completed plans for the Monon Trail to Central Avenue.

Pedal & Park served more than 2,000 cyclists and skaters with free bicycle and roller-blade parking for events such as the Broad Ripple Art Fair, Carmelfest, Indiana State Fair, Penrod Arts Fair, and Bike to Work Day.

8,356 hours logged by volunteers who helped with trail maintenance, cleanup projects, and landscape beautification.

Completed three cleanup projects at Fall Creek, White River, and Pogues Run.

Partnered with the Department of Public Works, Indianapolis Public Schools, Winthrop Supply Co., and area neighborhood associations to create 49th Street/Monon Art Mural.

Resource Development

The Resource Development Division steers the direction of Indy Parks and Recreation through resource planning, capital asset development, and sustainable strategic tactics. In addition to the planning tasks, this division is also responsible for construction management and project inspection, land acquisition, and real estate services.

2005 Accomplishments

Co-hosted *“Hidden Treasures of Indianapolis: Historic Landscapes and Gardens and the People Who Created Them”* – a national symposium to raise awareness of and interest in cultural treasures in the city. Highlights included discussions with nationally recognized experts on the landscape designs of George Kessler, Jens Jensen, and the Olmstead firm.

Constructed a new Bethel Park Family Center: 11,000 square foot facility with a gymnasium, meeting room, staff offices, game room, and computer lab.

Partnered with 21 students from Franklin Central High School’s Architecture and Engineering Club to beautify and improve Thompson Park. Students worked closely with park planners in the production of the Thompson Park Master Plan. In the summer of 2005, Mayor Bart Peterson honored students for their efforts with the “Excellence in Education Award.”

Consolidated maintenance operations and reduced costs by purchasing a new 33,000 square foot centralized maintenance facility.

Began construction of the Mary and John Geisse Soccer Complex at Eagle Creek, an 18-field soccer and sports complex located at 56th Street and Reed Road.



Park Rangers



The Park Rangers Division implements education safety programs, develops community policing strategies, and is responsible for enforcement of city ordinances, parks policies, and procedures.

2005 Accomplishments

Park Rangers made over 71,000 park visits and worked directly with over 120,000 individuals.

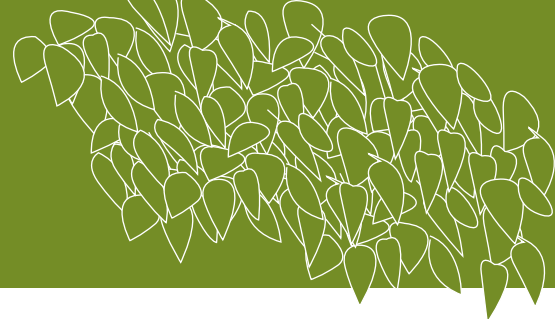
Park Ranger Tony Burrello received a gold medal in weightlifting while participating in the World Police and Fire Games (Quebec, Canada).

Provided public safety at over 30 events with the help of Reserve Park Rangers.

Increased attendance in the Park CrimeWatch program to over 1,000 participants. The program was created in an effort to prevent crime and vandalism to playground and park equipment. It relies on community involvement to report suspicious activities and crime.



Indy Parks and Recreation Condensed Financial Report for the year ending December 31, 2005



Revenues

Taxes	\$19,024,192
Charges for Services	4,553,239
State and Federal Grants	1,490,383
Sales and Lease of Property	258,920
Local Grants and Donations	103,998
Interest and Other Operating Revenues	<u>189,391</u>
Total Revenues	\$25,620,123

Other Financing Sources

Prior Year Encumbrances (Parks General)	\$ 5,897,196
Consolidated County Allocation	1,625,000
Motor Vehicle Highway Allocation	1,197,012
Current Year City Cumulative Capital Allocation	<u>3,129,990</u>
Total Other Financing Sources	\$11,849,198
Total Revenues and Other Financing Sources	<u><u>\$37,469,321</u></u>

Expenditures

Park and Recreation Fund	\$25,882,266
Capital Purchases and Capital Improvements	<u>6,800,208</u>
Total Expenditures	<u><u>\$32,682,474</u></u>

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